

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-16 are respectfully requested. Additionally, the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated.

The title of the present application was objected to for not being descriptive. The title has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is warranted and respectfully requested.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 16 was amended to remove any indefiniteness that may have existed. Withdrawal of the sec. 112 rejection, second paragraph, of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 102(e) applying U.S. Pat. App. Pub. 2002/0114061 (the '061 publication). Paragraph 7 of the Office Action states that "Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55." See p. 3 of the Office Action dated August 13, 2003.

Applicants have enclosed herewith an English language translation of the foreign priority papers along with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is true. Thus, the rejection is overcome by removing the reference from consideration. For this reason, withdrawal of the sec. 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 14, and 16 is warranted and respectfully requested.

Claims 3-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '061 publication without a teaching reference. The sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 3-9 is respectfully overcome for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of

the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 3-9 is warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 11-13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '061 publication without a teaching reference. The sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 2, 11-13, and 15 is respectfully overcome for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 14. Withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 3-9 is warranted and is respectfully requested.

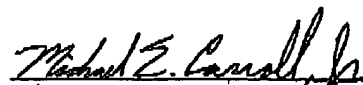
Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '061 publication without a teaching reference. The sec. 103(a) rejection of claim 10 is respectfully overcome for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claim 10 is warranted and is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael E. Carroll, Jr.
Attorney
Reg. No. 46,602
P.O. Box 489
Hickory, N. C. 28603
Telephone: 828/901-6725

Date: November 5, 2003

10/016,316
SI01-019
Page 8